

Lesson 5

第五课

Dì wǔ kè

看朋友

Kàn péngyou

VISITING FRIENDS

Learning Objectives

- In this lesson, you will learn to:
- Welcome a visitor
 - Introduce one person to another
 - Be a gracious guest
 - Ask for beverages as a guest
 - Offer beverages to a visitor
 - Briefly describe a visit to a friend's place

Relate & Get Ready

- In your own culture/community:
- Is it common to visit a friend's place without advance notice?
 - Do people bring anything when visiting a friend's home?
 - What food and drinks do hosts commonly offer guests?

Visiting a Friend's Place

Dialogue

Wang Peng and Li You visit Gao Wenzhong and meet his sister, Gao Xiaoyin.
(The doorbell rings.)



Audio



Video



谁呀?



是我, 王朋, 还有李友。



请进, 请进, 快进来! 来, 我介绍一下¹, 这是我姐姐, 高小音。



小音, 你好。认识你很高兴。



认识你们我也很高兴。



你们家很大², 也很漂亮。



是吗?³ 请坐, 请坐。



小音, 你在哪儿⁴工作?



我在学校工作。你们想喝点儿¹什么?
喝茶还是喝咖啡?



我喝茶吧⁴。



我要一瓶可乐, 可以吗?



对不起, 我们家没有可乐。



那给我一杯水吧。



(The doorbell rings.)



Shéi ya?



Shì wǒ, Wáng Péng, hái yǒu Lǐ Yǒu.



Qǐng jīn, qǐng jīn, kuài jīn lai! Lái, wǒ jièshào

yí xià¹, zhè shì wǒ jiějie, Gāo Xiǎoyīn.



Xiǎoyīn, nǐ hǎo. Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng.



Rènshi nǐmen wǒ yě hěn gāoxìng.



Nǐmen jiā hěn dà², yě hěn piàoliang.



Shì ma?^a Qǐng zuò, qǐng zuò.



Xiǎoyīn, nǐ zài nǎr³ gōngzuò?



Wǒ zài xuéxiào gōngzuò. Nǐmen xiǎng hē diǎnr¹ shénme? Hē chá hái shì hē kāfēi?



Wǒ hē chá ba⁴.



Wǒ yào yì píng kēlè, kěyǐ ma?



Duìbuqǐ, wǒmen jiā méi yǒu kēlè.



Nà gěi wǒ yì bēi shuǐ ba.

Language Notes

a 是吗? (Shì ma?)

"Is that so?" or "Really?" It is a rhetorical question here. This is a modest way to respond to a compliment.

b 哪儿 (nǎr)

A question word meaning "where." Do not confuse it with 那儿 (nàr) (there). "Here" is 这儿 (zhèr).

Vocabulary



Audio



Flashcards

No.	Word	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
1	呀	ya	p	(interjectory particle used to soften a question)
2	进	jìn	v	to enter
3	快	kuài	adv/adj	fast, quick; quickly
4	进来	jìn lai	vc	to come in
5	来	lái	v	to come
6	介绍	jièshào	v	to introduce
7	一下	yí xià	n+m	once, a bit [See Grammar 1.]
8	高兴	gāoxìng	adj	happy, pleased
9	漂亮	piàoliang	adj	pretty
10	坐	zuò	v	to sit
11	在	zài	prep	at, in, on [See Grammar 3.]
12	哪儿	nǎr	qpr	where
13	学校	xuéxiào	n	school
14	喝	hē	v	to drink
15	点 (儿)	diǎn(r)	m	a little, a bit, some [See Grammar 1.]
16	茶	chá	n	tea
17	咖啡	kāfēi	n	coffee
18	吧	ba	p	(a sentence-final particle) [See Grammar 4.]
19	要	yào	v	to want
20	瓶	píng	m	(measure word for bottled liquid, etc.)
21	可乐	kělè	n	cola



China's booming soft drinks market offers consumers a variety of choices. Can you identify these flavors?

**GET
Real
WITH CHINESE**

No.	Word	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
22	可以	kěyǐ	mv	can, may
23	对不起	duìbuqǐ	v	sorry
24	给	gěi	v	to give
25	杯	bēi	m	(measure word for things contained in a cup or glass)
26	水	shuǐ	n	water
27	高小音	Gāo Xiǎoyīn	pn	(a personal name)

你喜欢喝什么?

Nǐ xǐhuan hē shénme?

What do you like to drink?



我喜欢喝 _____。

Wǒ xǐhuan hē _____。

How About You?

See index for corresponding vocabulary or research another term.

1 Moderating tone of voice: 一下 (yí xià) and (一) 点儿 (yì diǎnr)

Following a verb, both 一下 (yí xià) (lit. “once”) and (一) 点儿 (yì diǎnr) (“a bit”) can soften the tone of a question or an imperative sentence, making it more polite. When used in this way, 一下 (yí xià) modifies the verb, while (一) 点儿 (yì diǎnr) modifies the object.

A

你看一下，这是谁的照片？

Nǐ kàn yí xià, zhè shì shéi de zhàopiàn?

Take a look. Whose photo is this?

B

你想吃点儿什么？

Nǐ xiǎng chī diǎnr shénme?

What would you like to eat?

C

你进来一下。

Nǐ jìn lai yí xià.

Come in for a minute.

D

你喝一点儿茶吧。

Nǐ hē yì diǎnr chá ba.

Have some tea.

EXERCISES

Moderate the tone of these sentences by inserting 一下 or (一) 点儿.

Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 我看_____你的照片 → 我看一下你的照片。
- 2 我看_____你的书。
- 3 你喝_____咖啡。



More exercises

Adjectives as predicates using 很 (hěnn) (very)

When an adjective functions as a predicate, it is not preceded by the verb 是 (shì) (to be). It is usually modified by 很 (hěnn) (very)—as in (A), (B), (C), and (D)—or some other adverbial modifier. Although usually translated as “very,” 很 (hěnn) is not quite as strong as its English equivalent when not stressed. It acts as an affirmative indicator. When forming a question with an adjective as the predicate, 很 (hěnn) is not used, as in (E) and (F).

A

我今天很高兴。

Wǒ jīntiān hěnn gāoxìng.

I'm very happy today.

B

他妹妹很漂亮。

Tā mèimei hěnn piàoliang.

His younger sister is very pretty.

C

那个电影很好。

Nà ge diànyǐng hěnn hǎo.

That movie is very good.

D

你们大学很大。

Nǐmen dàxué hěnn dà.

Your university is very large.

E

Q: 你弟弟高吗?

Nǐ dìdì gāo ma?

Is your younger brother tall?

A: 他很高。

Tā hěnn gāo.

He is very tall.

F

Q: 你家大吗?

Nǐ jiā dà ma?

Is your house big?

A: 我家不大，很小。

Wǒ jiā bú dà, hěnn xiǎo.

My house is not big; it's very small.

Chinese adjectives without 很 (hěnn) or any sort of modifier before them can often imply comparison or contrast, as in (G) and (H).

G Q: 姐姐忙还是妹妹忙?

Jiějie máng háishi mèimei máng?

Who's busier, the older sister or the younger sister?

A: 妹妹忙。

Mèimei máng.

The younger sister is busier.

H 哥哥的中文好，我的中文不好。

Gēge de Zhōngwén hǎo, wǒ de Zhōngwén bù hǎo.

My older brother's Chinese is good. My Chinese is not good.

EXERCISES

Use adjectives as predicates by inserting 很. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 我弟弟_____高。→ 我弟弟很高。
2 我妹妹今天_____高兴。
3 王律师的中文_____好。

3

The preposition 在 (zài) (at, in, on)

在 (zài) is a verb in (A).

A Q: 我的书在哪儿?

Wǒ de shū zài nǎr?

Where is my book?

A: 在那儿。

Zài nàr.

It's over there.

It is a preposition when a “在 (zài) + location” appears before a verb, as in (B), (C), and (D).

B Q: 你在哪儿工作?

Nǐ zài nǎr gōngzuò?

Where do you work?

A: 我在这儿工作。

Wǒ zài zhèr gōngzuò.

I work here.



More exercises

C

我在这个大学学中文。

Wǒ zài zhè ge dàxué xué Zhōngwén.

I study Chinese at this university.

D

我不在家看电影。

Wǒ bú zài jiā kàn diànyǐng.

I don't watch movies at home.

EXERCISES

Form a question-and-answer about where each of the activities occurs, inserting 在 where appropriate. Use exercise 1 as an example.



More exercises

- 1 白英爱 跳舞 学校
 → Q: 白英爱在哪儿跳舞? A: 她在学校跳舞。
- 2 白英爱这个周末 喝茶 高文中家
- 3 高文中明天 吃中国饭 老师家

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4

The particle 吧 (ba)

吧 (ba) is a sentence-final particle often used to soften the tone of a command or suggestion.

A

你喝咖啡吧。

Nǐ hē kāfēi ba.

Why don't you have some coffee?

C

我们跳舞吧。

Wǒmen tiào wǔ ba.

Let's dance.

B

请进来吧。

Qǐng jìn lái ba.

Come in, please.



More
exercises

EXERCISES

Soften the tone of these suggestions by inserting 吧. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 你喝点儿水_____。 → 你喝点儿水吧。
- 2 我们明天去看中国电影_____。
- 3 你今天晚上去听音乐_____。

Chinese Chat

Gao Wenzhong just published a new post on Weibo (微博) (Wēibó), a popular Chinese microblogging platform. Based on his tone, can you tell how he's feeling?



高文中

02-13 17:54 来自 iPhone 客户端

晚上朋友请客! 太高兴了! 去哪吃呀?
@白英爱

转发 1

评论 7

赞 79

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**GET
Real**
WITH **CHINESE**

Chinese lanterns
are sometimes used
as advertisements.
What are these
lanterns promoting?

photo courtesy of
ShuWen Zhang

Language Practice

A

If you ask politely . . .

Complete the sentences by using 一下 (yí xià) to moderate the tone of voice, e.g.:

You'd like to see a picture of your brother's girlfriend, so you ask him . . .

哥哥，我看一下你女朋友的照片，好吗？

Gēge, wǒ kàn yí xià nǚ péngyou de zhàopiàn, hǎo ma?

- 1 You'd like your friend Little Bai to introduce you to Miss Li, so you say . . .

小白，我想认识李小姐。请你_____。

Xiǎo Bái, wǒ xiǎng rènshi Lǐ xiǎojiě. Qǐng nǐ _____.

- 2 You're at the doctor's office for your appointment; the nurse tells you the doctor is busy, and asks you to take a seat, so she says . . .

对不起，医生现在有事儿，请你_____。

Duìbuqǐ, yīshēng xiànzài yǒu shìr, qǐng nǐ _____.

- 3 Your roommate is streaming an album and suggests that you listen to it, so she says . . .

这个音乐不错。你_____。

Zhè ge yīnyuè búcuò. Nǐ _____.

- 4 Your teacher wants to talk to you after class and asks you to come with him, so he says . . .

我有事儿找你。你_____。

Wǒ yǒu shìr zhǎo nǐ. Nǐ _____.

What do the characters mean?

What is the common radical?

What does the radical mean?

How does the radical relate to the overall meaning of the characters?

Characterize it!

1

菜

2

茶



More characters

In pairs, use the sentences to form questions about each other's personal opinions. Answer in the affirmative by inserting 很 (hěnn) in the ◇, and then in the negative, e.g.:

高文中的家◇漂亮

Gāo Wénzhōng de jiā ◇ piàoliang

If people ask your opinion of Gao Wenzhong's house,

Q: 高文中的家漂亮吗?

Gāo Wénzhōng de jiā piàoliang ma?

and you think Gao Wenzhong's house is beautifully decorated (affirmative), you can say . . .

A: 高文中的家很漂亮。

Gāo Wénzhōng de jiā hěnn piàoliang.

But, if you don't think Gao's house is beautifully decorated (negative), you can say . . .

A: 高文中的家不漂亮。

Gāo Wénzhōng de jiā bú piàoliang.

1 你的医生◇忙

nǐ de yīshēng ◇ máng

2 你的学校◇大

nǐ de xuéxiào ◇ dà

3 你的同学◇高兴

nǐ de tóngxué ◇ gāoxìng

4 你的老师◇好

nǐ de lǎoshī ◇ hǎo

5 你的书◇有意思

nǐ de shū ◇ yǒu yìsi

Where are Wang Peng and Li You and what are they doing there? Use the visual information and 在 (zài) to form different answers to the question, e.g.:



王朋和李友在学校看书。

Wáng Péng hé Lǐ Yǒu zài xuéxiào kàn shū.



Then ask your classmates where they like to do certain activities, e.g.:

你喜欢在哪儿看书/打球/听音乐？

Nǐ xǐhuan zài nǎr kàn shū/dǎ qiú/tīng yīnyuè?

D

May I offer you a refreshment?

INTERPERSONAL

In groups of five, act out a brief scenario. One of you is hosting a party for Gao Wenzhong, Wang Peng, Li You, and Bai Ying'ai. Find out what your guests would like to drink, and have them answer by using 吧 (ba), e.g.:



高文中，你想喝点儿什么？

Gāo Wénzhōng, nǐ xiǎng hē diǎnr shénme?



我喝茶吧。

Wǒ hē chá ba.

1



2



3



SAMPLE

E

Do you know everyone in your class?

INTERPERSONAL

Form a circle and take turns introducing the classmate on your right to the classmate on your left.

Student A

我介绍一下，这是_____。

Wǒ jièshào yí xià, zhè shì _____.

Student B

认识你很高兴。我介绍一下，这是_____。

Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng. Wǒ jièshào yí xià, zhè shì _____.

Student C

认识你很高兴。我介绍一下，这是_____。

Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng. Wǒ jièshào yí xià, zhè shì _____.

Form groups of three and role-play the following exchange:

Host

你/你们想喝点儿什么?

Nǐ/Nǐmen xiǎng hē diǎnr shénme?

Guests

我喝_____吧。

Wǒ hē _____ba.

Apologize for not having that beverage and offer an alternative:

Host

对不起，没有_____。_____, 可以吗?

Duìbuqǐ, méiyǒu _____. _____, kěyǐ ma?

The guests accept or ask for something else:

Guests

那给我一杯/一瓶_____吧。

Nà gěi wǒ yì bēi/yì píng _____ba.

In groups, interview your classmates about what they like to drink. Have a representative from each group record the results on the board, in a book, or on a computer, and another report the results to the class. Tally the results from all groups and have someone announce the class's favorite drinks.

你喜欢喝什么?

Nǐ xǐhuan hē shénme?

你喜欢喝茶吗?

Nǐ xǐhuan hē chá ma?

你喜欢喝可乐还是咖啡?

Nǐ xǐhuan hē kělè háishi kāfēi?

你喜欢喝水还是喝茶?

Nǐ xǐhuan hē shuǐ háishi hē chá?

At a Friend's Place

Narrative

Wang Peng and Li You visited Gao Wenzhong and Gao Xiayun.



昨天晚上，王朋和李友去高文中家玩儿。在高文中家，他们认识了⁵高文中的姐姐。她叫高小音，在学校的图书馆工作。她请王朋^a喝茶，王朋喝了⁵两杯。李友不喝茶，只喝了一杯水。他们一起聊天儿、看电视。王朋和李友晚上十二点⁶才回家。



Audio



Video



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Pinyin Narrative

Zuótiān wǎnshang, Wáng Péng hé Lǐ Yǒu qù Gāo Wénzhōng jiā wánr. Zài Gāo Wénzhōng jiā, tāmen rènshi ⁵le Gāo Wénzhōng de jiějie. Tā jiào Gāo Xiǎoyīn, zài xuéxiào de túshūguǎn gōngzuò. Tā qǐng Wáng Péng ^ahē chá, Wáng Péng hē ⁵liǎng bēi. Lǐ Yǒu bù hē chá, zhǐ hē le yì bēi shuǐ. Tāmen yìqǐ liáo tiānr, kàn diànshì. Wáng Péng hé Lǐ Yǒu wǎnshang shí'èr diǎn ⁶cái huí jiā.

Language Note

^a 喝 (hē)

Unlike its English counterpart, 喝 (hē) always functions as a transitive verb, i.e., unless it's clear from the context, the beverage has to be specified. Therefore, 他常常喝 (Tā chángcháng hē) is not a complete sentence unless the beverage is understood; e.g., when it occurs as an affirmative answer to a question:

Q: 他常常喝咖啡吗?

Tā chángcháng hē kāfēi ma?

Does he often drink coffee?

A: 他常常喝。

Tā chángcháng hē.

He often does.

Vocabulary



Audio



Flashcards

No.	Word	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
1	玩 (儿)	wán(r)	v	to have fun, to play
2	了	le	p	(a dynamic particle) [See Grammar 5.]
3	图书馆	túshūguǎn	n	library
4	一起	yìqǐ	adv	together
5	聊天 (儿)	liáo tiān(r)	vo	to chat
	聊	liáo	v	to chat
	天	tiān	n	sky
6	才	cái	adv	not until, only then [See Grammar 6.]
7	回家	huí jiā	vo	to go home
	回	huí	v	to return

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你在哪儿看书?

Nǐ zài nǎr kàn shū?

Where do you read books?



我在_____看书。

Wǒ zài _____ kàn shū.

See index for corresponding vocabulary or research another term.

How About You?

Characterize it!

Enclosing



1

图

2

了

3

回

4

玩

5

馆

Which of these characters are formed with the pattern on the left?



More characters

5

The particle 了 (le) (I)

The dynamic particle 了 (le) signifies : 1) the occurrence or completion of an action or event, or 2) the emergence of a situation. The action, event, or situation usually pertains to the past, but sometimes it can refer to the future. Therefore 了 (le) is not a “past tense” marker and should not be taken as the equivalent of the past tense in English. In this lesson, it indicates the occurrence or completion of an action or event. It is usually used directly after a verb. In interrogative and declarative sentences, it sometimes appears after a verb and the object of the verb.

A 今天妈妈喝了三杯水。

Jīntiān Māma hē le sān bēi shuǐ.

Mom drank three glasses of water today.

OCCURRENCE OR COMPLETION OF AN ACTION, IN THE PAST.

B 星期一小高请我喝了一瓶可乐。

Xīngqīyī Xiǎo Gāo qǐng wǒ hē le yì píng kělè.

On Monday, Little Gao bought me a bottle of cola.

OCCURRENCE OR COMPLETION OF AN EVENT, IN THE PAST.

C Q: 昨天晚上你去打球了吗?

Zuótiān wǎnshang nǐ qù dǎ qiú le ma?

Did you play ball last night?

OCCURRENCE OR COMPLETION OF AN EVENT, IN THE PAST, INTERROGATIVE

A: 昨天晚上我去打球了。

Zuótiān wǎnshang wǒ qù dǎ qiú le.

I went to play ball last night.

OCCURRENCE OR COMPLETION OF AN EVENT, IN THE PAST.

D 明天我吃了晚饭去看电影。

Míngtiān wǒ chī le wǎnfàn qù kàn diànyǐng.

Tomorrow I'll go see a movie after I eat dinner.

OCCURRENCE OR COMPLETION OF AN ACTION IN THE FIRST PART OF THE SENTENCE, IN THE FUTURE

There is often a specific time phrase in a sentence with the dynamic particle 了 (le), such as:

- 今天 (jīntiān) (today) in (A)
- 昨天晚上 (zuótiān wǎnshang) (last night) in (C)
- 星期一 (xīngqīyī) (Monday) in (B)

When 了 (le) is used between the verb and the object, the object is usually preceded by a modifier.

The following “numeral + measure word” is the most common type of modifier for the object:

- 三杯 (sān bēi) (three cups/glasses) in (A)
- 一瓶 (yì píng) (one bottle) in (B)

If there are other phrases or sentences following the object of the first clause, then the object does not need a modifier. See (D) above. This v 了 o+v (o) structure can be used to depict a sequence of actions regardless of the time of their occurrence.

If the object following 了 (le) is a proper noun, it doesn't need a modifier either. See (E).

E 我昨天看了《星球大战》，那个电影很好。

Wǒ zuótiān kàn le «Xīngqiú Dàzhàn», nà ge diànyǐng hěn hǎo.

I saw Star Wars yesterday. The movie was very good.

To say that an action did not take place in the past, use 没(有) (méi [yǒu]) instead of 不...了 (bù ... le) or 没有...了 (méiyǒu ... le), as in the example below.

F 昨天我没有听音乐。 [× 昨天我不听音乐了。]

Zuótiān wǒ bù tīng yīnyuè le.

I didn't listen to music yesterday.

[× 昨天我没有听音乐了。]

The following are examples of interrogative forms:

G Q: 你吃饭了吗? or 你吃饭了没有? A: 我没吃。

Nǐ chī fàn le ma? or Nǐ chī fàn le méiyǒu?

Have you eaten?

Wǒ méi chī.

No, I haven't.

H Q: 你喝了几杯水?

Nǐ hē le jǐ bēi shuǐ?

How many glasses of water did you drink?

A: 我喝了一杯水。

Wǒ hē le yì bēi shuǐ.

I drank one glass of water.

EXERCISES

Rearrange the words to form a sentence by inserting 了 after the verb and before the numeral and measure word. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 我 喝 可乐 一 → 我喝了一瓶可乐。
- 2 他昨天 看 中国电影 一
- 3 李友今天 认识 人 四



6

The adverb 才 (cái) (not until)

The adverb 才 (cái) (not until) indicates the occurrence of an action or situation later than the speaker expects. That lateness is perceived by the speaker, and is not necessarily objective, as in (B) and (C). 才 (cái) never takes the particle 了 (le), even if it pertains to a past action or situation.

A

我请他六点吃晚饭，他六点半才来。

Wǒ qǐng tā liù diǎn chī wǎnfàn, tā liù diǎn bàn cái lái.

I invited him out to dinner at six o'clock. He didn't arrive until six-thirty.

B

小高常常晚上十二点才回家。

Xiǎo Gāo chángcháng wǎnshàng shí'èr diǎn cái huí jiā.

Little Gao often doesn't come home until midnight.

C

她晚上很晚才睡觉。

Tā wǎnshàng hěn wǎn cái shuì jiào.

She goes to bed very late at night.

EXERCISES

Indicate perceived lateness by joining these sentences. Insert 才 where appropriate. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 我们六点吃饭。她六点一刻来。
→ 我们六点吃饭，她六点一刻才来。
- 2 我们十点钟回家。王朋十一点回家。
- 3 我们两点去打球。我弟弟四点去打球。



Language Practice

H

You did what?

Little Gao has so much energy! He can do a lot in one day. Based on the images, recap what he did yesterday by using 了 (le), e.g.:



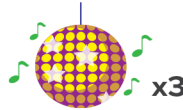
小高昨天喝了四杯咖啡。

Xiǎo Gāo zuótiān hē le sì bēi kāfēi.

1



2



3



4



L

Fashionably late!

PRESENTATIONAL

Your roommate is a procrastinator and does everything later than you. Present your different schedules to the class using 才 (cái), e.g.:



我七点喝咖啡，她八点才喝（咖啡）。

7:00 vs. 8:00

Wǒ qī diǎn hē kāfēi, tā bā diǎn cái hē (kāfēi).

1



9:00 vs. 9:30

2



2:15 vs. 2:45

3



6:00 vs. 7:15

4



8:00 vs. 8:30

5



9:30 vs. 12:00

J

INTERPERSONAL

What did you do last night?

PRESENTATIONAL

Interview your classmates about what they did last night, e.g.:

你昨天晚上去朋友家玩儿了吗?

Nǐ zuótiān wǎnshang qù péngyou jiā wánr le ma?

If the answer is negative, then ask:

你昨天晚上去哪儿了? 你喝什么了?

你喝了几杯/几瓶?

Nǐ zuótiān wǎnshang qù nǎr le? Nǐ hē shénme le? Nǐ hē le jǐ bēi/jǐ píng?

Then report to the class what your partner did last night, e.g.:

Mark 昨天晚上去朋友家玩儿了/没有去朋友家玩儿……

Mark *zuótīān wǎnshang qù péngyou jiā wánr le/méiyǒu qù péngyou jiā wánr . . .*

K

Birthday itinerary

PRESENTATIONAL

Describe what Little Wang did on his birthday, and when, according to these images.

1



2



3





Continue
to explore

COMPARE & CONTRAST

1 “Host” and “guest” are **主 (zhǔ)** and **客 (kè)**. The Chinese often say **客随主便 (kè suí zhǔ biàn)**, “A good guest goes along with whatever is convenient for the host.” A related expression is **入乡随俗 (rù xiāng suí sú)**, “Wherever you find yourself, follow local customs.” The phrase **反客为主 (fǎn kè wéi zhǔ)**, meanwhile, describes a presumptive guest who usurps the place of the host. Are there similar sayings in your culture?

2 When you visit a friend in China, you should bring a gift. You might be asked to change into slippers and be offered something to drink. Normally, food is served family style to indicate abundance and respect for the guests. Dishes are brought out one course at a time, so the host will not join the meal until all the dishes are served. It is polite to wait for the host to urge you to start eating. If a Chinese friend asks you about visiting etiquette in your culture, what would you say?

3 The tea plant is native to China. The beverage made from its leaves is often called some derivative of the Mandarin or Southern Min dialect pronunciation of the Chinese word for tea. The Russian *chai* comes from Mandarin, whereas tea in English comes from the Southern Min dialect. Do you know what tea is called in any other language?

Tea

茶 (chá) can probably be called the national drink of China. Indeed, the practice of drinking tea originated there. According to legend, tea was discovered by the ancient Chinese emperor **神农 (Shénnóng)** when leaves from a nearby shrub fell into the water he was boiling. It depends on whom you ask, but in general, Chinese tea may be classified into the following categories according to the different methods by which tea leaves are processed: green tea, black tea, Wulong tea, compressed tea, and scented tea.

Chrysanthemum tea, **菊花茶 (júhuā chá)**, is a type of scented tea, whereas Longjing tea, **龙井茶 (lóngjǐng chá)**, belongs to the green tea family. Nowadays, bubble tea, **珍珠奶茶 (zhēnzhū nǎichá)**, is gaining popularity in the West.

Although tea remains the most popular beverage in China, the number of coffee drinkers has been on the rise in recent years. Coffee is now widely available in supermarkets. Coffee shops, including international chains such as Starbucks, **星巴克 (Xīngbākè)**, and Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, are familiar sights in many Chinese cities.

Do you know where bubble tea originated? **奶茶 (nǎichá)** literally means milk tea. How about **珍珠 (zhēnzhū)**? What are they really?

认识你很高兴

认识你很高兴 (*rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng*) or 很高兴认识你 (*hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ*) is basically a translation of “I’m very happy to meet you.” This form of greeting is becoming more common, even though to some Chinese it sounds a bit formal.

Greetings

很高兴认识你

Etiquette

Traditionally, privacy is a somewhat less sacrosanct concept in Chinese culture than it is in the West: you would not necessarily be considered intrusive if you dropped by a friend’s place without warning; nor would topics such as age, marital status, and salary necessarily be off limits in a polite conversation. For those who believe in the traditional Chinese notion of friendship or personal loyalty, sharing such personal information is an important gesture of trust. But there is a more prosaic explanation. Until relatively recently, most people lived in close proximity to one another and everyone followed more or less the same prescribed track in life. The income gap was limited. Therefore, there were few secrets. Everyone knew what their neighbors did and how much money they made.

This is changing, however; particularly due to disparity in incomes and urbanization of communities. Chinese citizens have become more conscious of their “right to privacy,” or 隐私权 (*yǐn sī quán*). Nowadays, Chinese people consider it more and more important to give notice before visiting friends and to avoid asking about personal information.



Lesson Wrap-Up

Make It Flow!

Rearrange the following sentences into a logical sequence. Then combine them into a coherent narrative. Remember to omit repetitive elements and substitute subjects with personal pronouns where appropriate. Time expressions and place words can also serve as useful connective devices.

- _____ 高文中的姐姐叫高小音。
_____ 他们一起聊天儿、看电视。
_____ 1 昨天晚上，王朋和李友去高文中家玩儿。
_____ 晚上十二点王朋和李友才回家。
_____ 在高文中家王朋和李友认识了高文中的姐姐。
_____ 高小音在图书馆工作。

Role-Play

- Student A** You are the host. Introduce your guests and ask what they would like to drink.
- Student B** Meet and greet the other guest. Compliment the host's home. Ask where the other guest works. Tell the host that you don't drink tea, coffee, or cola. Ask for a glass of water instead.
- Student C** Meet and greet the other guest. Tell the other guest that you are delighted to meet him/her. Tell the other guest that you don't work; you are a student. Let the host know that you would like a cup of tea.

Email

Email your Chinese-speaking friend about your visit to a friend's place last night. Include the following information:

- Where you went
- Whom you met there, what they did, and whether you found them interesting
- What your friend's home was like, e.g., big, nicely decorated
- What you did
- When you returned home

Can-Do Check List

I can

- Introduce one person to another
- Greet guests when they visit my home
- Offer drinks to my guests
- As a guest, ask the host/hostess for a beverage
- Briefly describe a visit to a friend's place

Before proceeding to Lesson 6, make sure you can complete the following tasks in Chinese: